

## Today's News - Wednesday, September 19, 2012

- Ransford on the struggle to find the "game changer" when it comes to discussing the "D" word (development and/or density): "Consensus will only come from a constructive dialogue. Yelling at each other isn't getting us far."
- Kolson Hurley delves into the question: "Would there be more women in architecture if there were more women in development?"
- Architecture takes some blows to the chin today: it seems the stars have aligned to bring Moshe to Melbourne's Monash University, "evidence of a wider trend" of international starchitects working on local university projects.
- Davies finds the Monash/Safdie project raises a number of questions: while "some universities are looking to glamorous architecture as a way of marketing their wares," why is it necessary "to go overseas to get a suitable designer"?
- Will Zaha's new cultural center "'stitch' together the urban fabric of downtown Montpellier and the distant working-class neighborhood"?
- Meades minces no words: "Architects are the last people who should shape our cities. Appointing architects to conceive places is like appointing foxes to advise on chicken security."
- Beckett admires Meades' "bristling prose" in "Museum Without Walls": his writing is "compellingly uncivil" and "zigzags between the lordly and the thuggish, between high culture and low...I hope he grumbles on for decades to come."
- Betsky, fresh from jurying Taiwan's Keelung Harbor competition, explains why Denari won out over Asymptote: "The best scheme won. (I also have to admit that the second place winner would have been fantastic as well.)"
- Russell brings home lessons from London's King's Cross station that might inform those who have spent 15 years "dithering over what to do about Penn Station's dim, filthy maze" in NYC.
- Meanwhile, MAS has invited Foster, SOM, and WXY to re-think the public spaces in and around the glorious Grand Central Terminal.
- Cavagnero gives a behind-the-scenes look at "the first standalone jazz performance hall in the U.S.," San Francisco's "SFJAZZ finally has a place to park its piano."
- Austin, TX, gets its first look at four finalists' "ambitious" designs to re-imagine downtown's Waller Creek: "Any of the four designs, if built, would likely become instant destinations, on par with Manhattan's High Line and Chicago's Millennium Park."
- Greensboro, NC, taps Hugh Hardy to design its new performing arts center.
- Saffron cheers Furness finally being feted properly, but bemoans "despite the growing admiration, Philadelphia continues to lose his buildings at a steady rate."
- The upcoming Education for Sustainability | International Greening Education conference in Germany will explore "effective ways to integrate sustainability across the education sector."
- Park(ing) Day 2012 launches world-wide on Friday!
- An eyeful of the 2012 Animal Architecture Awards winners ("Bat Cloud" takes 1st Place).
- Deadline looms: 34th Annual Interiors Awards Competition.

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Open talk needed when it comes to the 'D' word: Residents need to embrace big picture of development...Planners, developers, civic politicians and citizen-advocates for smart growth are all struggling with finding the game changer...Consensus...will only come from a constructive dialogue. Yelling at each other isn't getting us far. By Bob Ransford- Vancouver Sun

Double Whammy: Would there be more women in architecture if there were more women in development? Assuming that the development industry can make progress in retaining and promoting mid-career women—a big if...That's good news for women architects. By Amanda Kolson Hurley -- Angela O'Byrne/Perez; Anne Fougerson/Fougerson Architecture; Julie Snow; Andrea Leers Jane Weinzapfel Ann Beha Jeanne Gang; Deborah Berke; Chika Yamada/GF55 Associates; Audrey Matlock-Architect Magazine

Architecture stars align to bring music school to Monash: One of the world's most respected architects has been lured to Melbourne to design an \$80 million Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music for Monash University...evidence of a wider trend of high-profile international architects working on local university projects... -- Safdie Architects/Fender Katsalidis; OMA/Rem Koolhaas/Donovan Hill; NADAAA/Nader Tehrani/John Wardle Architects - The Age (Australia)

Who needs a 'starchitect'? Monash University [has] commissioned...Moshe Safdie...to design its new \$80 million Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music...It seems some universities are looking to glamorous architecture as a way of marketing their wares...Traditional ways...like the quality of courses, staff and research – apparently aren't enough...An obvious question is why it's necessary for Monash, or any university, to go overseas to get a suitable designer. By Alan Davies/Pollard Davies -- Safdie Architects/Fender Katsalidis; Frank Gehry; ARM; Morphosis - Crikey (Australia)

Can Zaha Hadid Transform Montpellier With Her Stunning New Cultural Center? Pierres Vives ("Living Stones") houses the Cité des Savoirs et du Sport (Center for Knowledge and Sport)...triple identity is visible in the architecture itself...part of a large development project...to "stitch" together the urban fabric of the downtown and the distant working-class neighborhood... [images] - Artinfo France

Jonathan Meades: Architects are the last people who should shape our cities: New, shiny buildings are all well and good, but what architects forget about is a sense of place – and the beauty of wastelands...One cause of this failure is architects' lack of empathy, their failure to cast themselves as non-architects...their bent towards aesthetic totalitarianism...Appointing architects to conceive places is like appointing foxes to advise on chicken security. ["Museum Without Walls" excerpt] - Guardian (UK)

"Museum Without Walls" by Jonathan Meades: Andy Beckett admires the bristling prose of one of our best cultural critics...his writing is compellingly uncivil...zigzag between the lordly and the thuggish, between high culture and low...Some readers will find the verbal and factual one-upmanship tiresome...but there are also novel and important ideas here...I hope he grumbles on for decades to come. - Guardian (UK)

Denari's Icon: Neil Denari edges out Asymptote Architecture to win the competition to design a building for Keelung Harbor in Taiwan: The best scheme won...(I also have to admit that the second place winner would have been fantastic as well.) By Aaron Betsky [slide show] - Architect Magazine

Penn Project Shamed by London's King's Cross Concourse: In New York, dithering over what to do about Penn Station's dim, filthy maze has gone on for 15 years...It's worth having a look at how the elegant \$880 million Western Concourse of the 1852 King's Cross depot addresses so many challenges... By James S. Russell -- John McAslan & Partners; Arup; Foster + Partners [images] - Bloomberg News

MAS Announces The Next 100: ...Foster + Partners, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM), and WXY Architecture + Urban Design – to re-think the public spaces in and around Grand Central Terminal...will be presented at the third annual MAS Summit for New York City and in a subsequent public exhibition. -

Municipal Art Society of New York (MAS)

San Francisco's Jazzy New Arts Center: Behind The Scenes With Architect Mark Cavagnero: ...SFJAZZ finally has a place to park its piano...will be the first standalone jazz performance hall in the U.S...  
[images]- Architizer

Waller Creek designs unveiled: Four finalists in a design competition to re-imagine downtown's Waller Creek...designs are ambitious...Any of the four designs, if built, would likely become instant destinations, on par with Manhattan's High Line and Chicago's Millennium Park... -- CMG/Public Architecture; Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates/Thomas Phifer & Partners; Turenscape/Lake/Flato Architects; Ken Smith Landscape Architect/Ten Eyck Landscape Architects/Rogers Marvel Architects [images - Austin American-Statesman (Texas)

Architectural firm chosen for Greensboro Performing Arts Center: The firm now has 12-weeks to work with consultants to build the general look of the center in the three downtown locations up for discussion. -- H3 Hardy Collaboration Architecture- News 14 Carolina (North Carolina)

Honoring Frank Furness, who was not appreciated in his time: ...died in 1912, broken and out of fashion, and things only went downhill from there...now recognized as a pivotal figure in architecture, whose work...captured the first stirrings of industrial-age modernity...increasingly seen as a proto-modernist...Despite the growing admiration...Philadelphia continues to lose his buildings at a steady rate. By Inga Saffron -- Michael J. Lewis - Philadelphia Inquirer

Education for Sustainability | International Greening Education Event (IGEE) 2012, Karlsruhe, Germany, October 10-12: educators, policymakers, sustainable development practitioners, teachers, and other stakeholders share ideas, experiences and knowledge for effective ways to integrate sustainability across the education sector. - Etech-Center for Applied Environmental Technologies (Germany)

Park(ing) Day 2012: annual worldwide event where artists, designers and citizens transform metered parking spots into temporary public park; Friday, September 21 - Rebar Group

2012 Animal Architecture Awards. This year saw an impressive range of projects from around the globe. [images]- Animal Architecture

Deadline reminder: Call for entries: 34th Annual Interiors Awards Competition; deadline: September 28- Contract magazine



-- Ken Price Sculpture: A Retrospective, LACMA, Los Angeles  
-- Exhibition: "Palladio Virtuel," Yale School of Architecture Gallery, New Haven, Connecticut  
-- Keith Williams Architects: The Novium, Chichester, UK

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